launched by mid-January, 1992.

(e) No, Sir.

[*Translation*]

Processing of Fruits and Vegetables

3402. SHRI ARJUN SINGH YADAV:
SHRI RAM LAKHAN SINGH YADAV:

Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether fruits and vegetables of the value of Rupees 30 billion goes waste in India, if so, the reasons therefor;

(b) the percentage of fruit and vegetables that are processed; and

(c) the efforts being made by Government to increase the capacity and modernise the units of food processing industries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO): (a) While no authentic information is available, it is estimated that fruits & vegetables valued at Rs. 3,000/- crores are wasted every year due to inadequate post harvest handling as well as absence of linkage with the processors and fresh fruits & vegetable markets.

(b) It is estimated that about 1% of the fruits and vegetables are processed.

(c) The Ministry of Food Processing Industries have formulated various plan schemes to extend financial assistance to the State Government undertakings, public sector undertakings and cooperatives etc. for increasing the present processing capacity, setting up of food processing industries and for modernisation of these industries. This assistance is given on the proposals received through the State Governments.

[*English*]

Diversion of Stock of FPS to Open Market

3403. SHRI ARJUN SINGH YADAV: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the kerosene oil dealers and Fair Price Shop owners in Delhi are diverting the stocks in the blackmarket as has been established with the catching of a wheat loaded truck in Moti Nagar area and a tanker of kerosene oil in Nizamuddin area recently;

(b) if so, the reasons for not keeping a strict eye on these dealers by the Food and Supplies Department; of Delhi Administration;

(c) the steps taken to tone up the working and functioning of the Food and Supplies Department;

(d) the number of premises of hoarders of kerosene and ration shops raided for diversion of these stuff and the action taken against them, with details thereof; and

(e) the number of licences cancelled suspended by Delhi Administration during the last twelve months with reasons thereof?

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) to (c). Some cases of diversion of specified food articles and kerosene oil have been detected by Delhi Administration. The Delhi Administration regularly undertakes inspection of fair price shops and kerosene oil depots to curb diversion of PDS items into the open market. Surprise checks